

CHOICES

P.O. Box 15386
Florence, South Carolina 29506

GRADES 7-12 High School

ENROLLMENT 30 Students

PRINCIPAL Ralph Porter 843-664-8993

SUPERINTENDENT Dr. Rainey Knight 843-398-5200

BOARD CHAIR Dr. Thelma P. Dawson 843-393-1291

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

2003

ABSOLUTE RATING:

N/A

Absolute Ratings of High Schools with Students like Ours

Excellent
N/A

Good
N/A

Average
N/A

Below Average
N/A

Unsatisfactory
N/A

IMPROVEMENT RATING:

N/A

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS:

N/A

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WEBSITES AT:

WWW.MYSCSCHOOLS.COM

WWW.SCEOC.ORG

PERFORMANCE TRENDS OVER 4-YEAR PERIOD

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating	Adequate Yearly Progress
2001	N/A	N/A	N/A
2002	N/A	N/A	N/A
2003	N/A	N/A	N/A
2004			

TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM

	Our School			High Schools with Students Like Ours		
Percent	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
Passed all 3 subtests	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Passed 2 subtests	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Passed 1 subtest	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Passed no subtests	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

	Exit Exam Passage Rate by Spring 2003		Eligibility for LIFE Scholarships*		Graduation Rate	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
All Students	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Gender						
Male	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Female	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Race or Ethnic Group						
African American	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
White	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disability Status						
Non-speech disabilities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Students without disabilities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Migrant Status						
Migrant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Non-migrant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
English Proficiency						
Limited English proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Non-LEP	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Lunch Status						
Subsidized meals	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Full-pay meals	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

n = number of students on which percentage is calculated

ELIGIBILITY FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS

Percent of	Our School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
Seniors eligible for LIFE Scholarships at four-year institutions*	N/A	N/A
Seniors who met the SAT requirement	N/A	N/A
Seniors who met the grade point average	N/A	N/A

*Using only the SAT and grade point average requirements

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	High Schools with Students Like Ours	Median High School
Students (n= 30)				
Retention rate	N/A	N/A	N/A	7.3%
Attendance rate	N/A	N/A	N/A	95.5%
Eligible for gifted and talented	0.0%	N/A	N/A	5.1%
With disabilities other than speech	50.0%	N/A	N/A	12.2%
Older than usual for grade	25.0%	N/A	N/A	10.1%
Suspended or expelled	6.7%	N/R	N/A	2.3%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	N/R	N/A	N/A	10.2%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Annual dropout rate	0.0%	N/A	N/A	2.7%
Career/technology students in co-curricular organizations	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.2%
Enrollment in career/technology center courses	N/A	N/A	N/A	433
Students participating in worked-based experiences	N/A	N/A	N/A	26.3%
Career/technology students mastering core competencies	N/A	N/A	N/A	74.9%
Career/technology completers placed	N/A	N/A	N/A	99.5%

Teachers (n= 2)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	N/A	N/A	N/A	51.7%
Continuing contract teachers	N/A	N/A	N/A	81.8%
Highly qualified teachers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Teachers returning from previous year	N/A	N/A	N/A	85.1%
Teacher attendance rate	98.9%	N/R	N/A	95.8%
Average teacher salary	I/S	N/A	N/A	\$40,303
Prof. development days/teacher	N/R	N/R	N/A	10.3 days

School				
Principal's years at school	1.0	N/R	N/A	3.0
Student-teacher ratio	5.5 to 1	N/R	N/A	26.2 to 1
Prime instructional time	N/R	N/R	N/A	90.1%
Dollars spent per pupil*	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$6,279
Percent spent on teacher salaries*	N/A	N/A	N/A	57.8%
Opportunities in the arts	Poor	N/R	N/A	Excellent
Parents attending conferences	N/R	N/R	N/A	87.8%
SACS accreditation	no	N/A	no	yes

* Prior year audited financial data are reported.

	Our District	State
Highly qualified teachers in low poverty schools	N/A	N/A
Highly qualified teachers in high poverty schools	N/A	N/A

Abbreviations for Missing Data							
N/A	Not Applicable	N/C	Not Collected	N/R	Not Reported	I/S	Insufficient Sample

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

"CHOICES" is a first year charter school with charter agreements with both Florence District One and Darlington County. "CHOICES" target population is students ages 12 years to 17 years who have been expelled from school or dropped out. Our goal is to provide an education that will transition them to become life-long learners and to possibly return to regular traditional schools if that is possible and appropriate. "CHOICES" provides a foundation for continuous learning through classroom instruction, service learning, project-based learning, and on-site construction training. Character training is the cornerstone for "CHOICES" as the students are given the opportunity to discover the greatest possible understanding of self. They are exposed to individual, personalized learning with a strong emphasis on work ethics and job skills.

The mission of "CHOICES" Charter School is to provide a learning environment that links school to work experiences by making the right choices and staying in school. "CHOICES" originated by the retired Police Chief of Florence who saw a need for a school for divergent learners who were roaming the streets and demonstrating behavior problems that were getting them expelled from school. This is the only other alternative after expulsion other than the streets or incarceration. "CHOICES" is physically located in Darlington County adjacent to Florence County in the middle of 130 acres of forest on Black Creek. The property is owned by Central United Methodist Church and "CHOICES" actually leases 8 acres for one dollar per month for the actual school location. Student enrollment will remain small, beginning with 30 students and capping off at 45 students. There is one certified teacher and teacher's assistant per 15 students with additional assistance provided by retired professional people in the community. "CHOICES" has adopted a progressive discipline system that ensures good communications between school relative to student behavior.

Respectfully submitted by: Ralph Porter Executive Director and retired Police Chief.

EVALUATIONS BY TEACHERS, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS

	Teachers	Students	Parents
Number of surveys returned	2	23	12
Percent satisfied with learning environment	I/S	73.9%	100.0%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	I/S	91.3%	100.0%
Percent satisfied with home-school relations	I/S	82.6%	100.0%

DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

- Excellent - School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Good - School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Average - School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Below Average - School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Unsatisfactory - School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal

DEFINITION OF ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS

As required by the United States Department of Education, adequate yearly progress specified that the statewide target is met for all students and for each subgroup of students: racial/ethnic, economic, disability, limited English proficiency and migrant status.